# History of the European Union 1945-59

## Peace in Europe and the beginnings of cooperation

With the aim of ending the frequent and bloody conflicts that culminated in the Second World War, European politicians begin the process of building what we know today as the European Union.

The European Coal and Steel Community, founded in 1951, is the first step in securing a lasting peace. In 1957, the Treaty of Rome establishes the European Economic Community (EEC) and a new era of ever-closer cooperation in Europe. This period, however, also sees the emergence of a Cold War that divides the continent for more than 40 years.

## 8 May 1945 – end of World War II in Europe

The Second World War ends in Europe. The continent is devastated. Millions of people are dead, injured or displaced. Six million Jews have been murdered in the Holocaust.

## 4 April 1949 – NATO is created

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is established, an intergovernmental security alliance between the United States, Canada and 10 Western European countries. By 2020, NATO has 30 members, including 21 EU countries.

## 5 May 1949 – The Council of Europe is established

10 Western European countries create the Council of Europe to promote democracy and protect human rights and the rule of law. The European Convention on Human Rights comes into force on 3 September 1953.

## 9 May 1950 – A plan for new political cooperation in Europe

French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman presents a plan for deeper cooperation. He proposes integrating the coal and steel industries of Western Europe. Later, 9 May is celebrated by the European Union as 'Europe Day'.

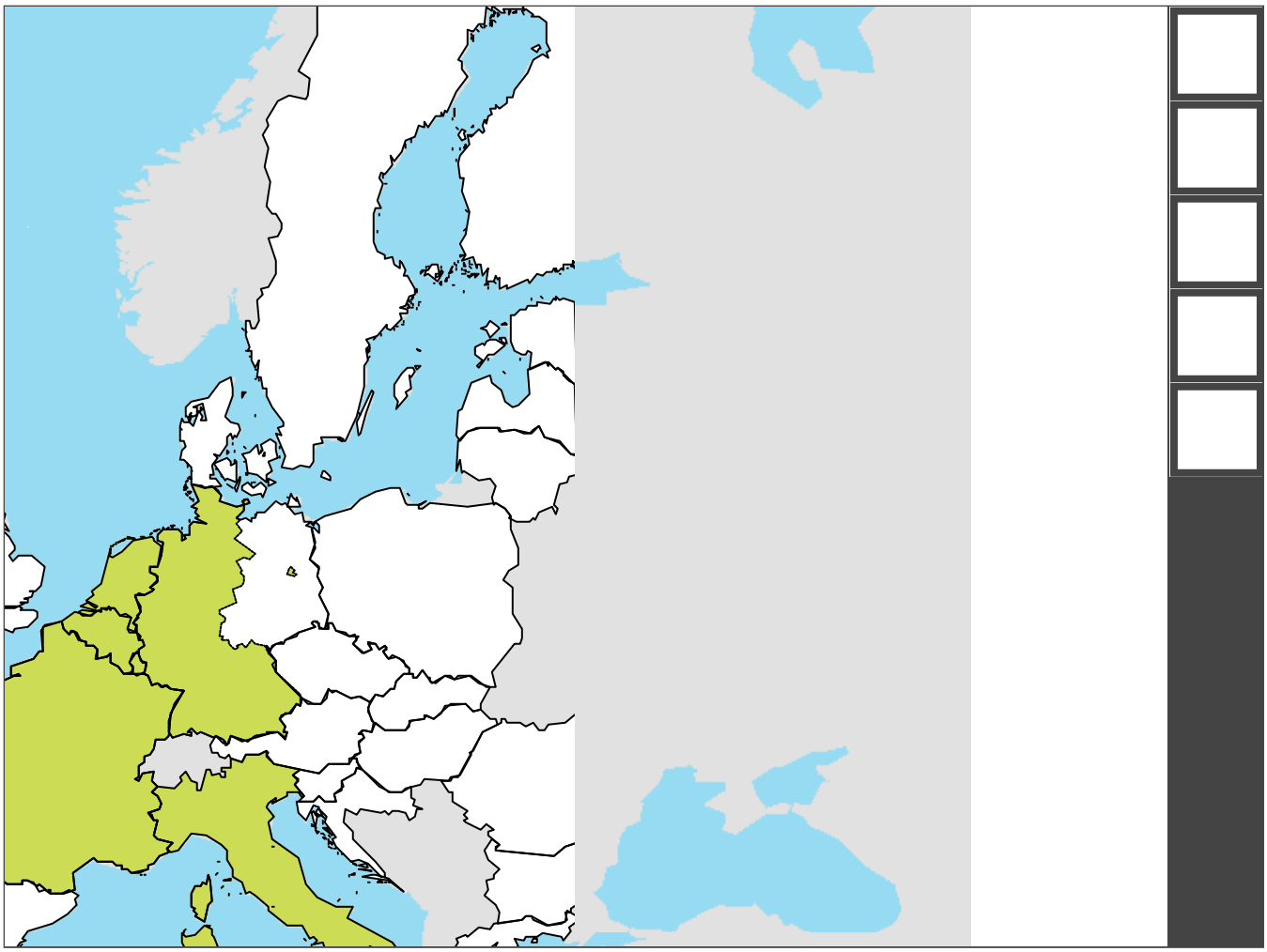
# 18 April 1951 – European Coal and Steel Community

Based on the Schuman plan, six countries sign a treaty to run their coal and steel industries under a common management. In this way, no single country can make the weapons of war to turn against others, as in the past. The six are Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. The European Coal and Steel Community comes into being in 1952.

# 25 March 1957 – Treaties of Rome

Building on the success of the Coal and Steel Treaty, the 6 founding countries expand their cooperation to other economic sectors. They formalise this by signing two treaties, creating the European Economic Community (EEC), and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom). These bodies come into being on 1 January 1958.

List of all EU member states and when they joined



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# 19 March 1958 – Birth of the European Parliament

The first meeting of the European Parliamentary Assembly, a forerunner of today's European Parliament, is held in Strasbourg, France, with Robert Schuman elected President. It replaces the Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community and changes its name to the European Parliament on 30 March 1962.

Further information

**The Schuman Declaration – 9 May 1950**

**Text of the 1957 Treaty of Rome**

**Historical archives of EU institutions**

EU countries (27)

RSS

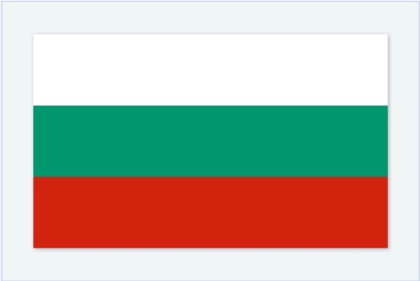
Showing results 1 to 20

## Austria

EU Member State since 1995, Euro area member since 1999, Schengen area member since 1997 and more about Austria’s participation in the EU.

## Belgium

EU Member State since 1958, Euro area member since 1999, Schengen area member since 1995 and more about Belgium’s participation in the EU.



## Bulgaria

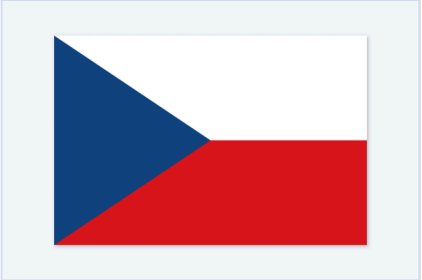
EU Member State since 2007, Schengen area member since 2024 and more about Bulgaria's participation in the EU.

## Croatia

EU Member State since 2013, Euro area member since 2023, Schengen area member since 2023 and more about Croatia’s participation in the EU.

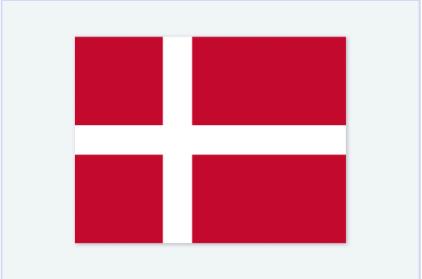
## Cyprus

EU Member State since 2004, Euro area member since 2008, and more about Cyprus’s participation in the EU.



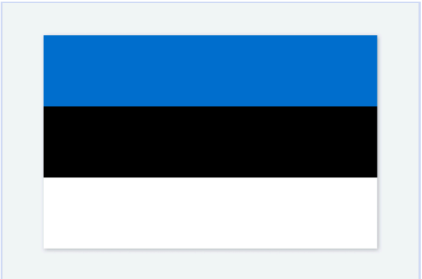
## Czechia

EU Member State since 2004, Schengen area member since 2007 and more about Czechia's participation in the EU.



## Denmark

EU Member State since 1973, Schengen area member since 2001 and more about Denmark's participation in the EU.



## Estonia

EU Member State since 2004, Euro area member since 2011, Schengen area member since 2007 and more about Estonia's participation in the EU.

## Finland

EU Member State since 1995, Euro area member since 1999, Schengen area member since 2001 and more about Finland's participation in the EU.

## France

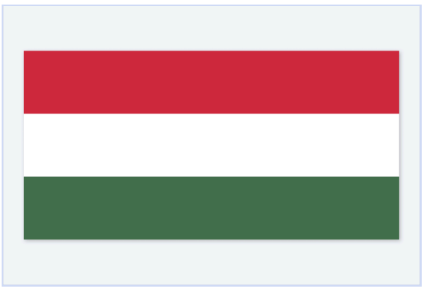
EU Member State since 1958, Euro area member since 1999, Schengen area member since 1995 and more about France's participation in the EU.

## Germany

EU Member State since 1958, Euro area member since 1999, Schengen area member since 1995 and more about Germany's participation in the EU.

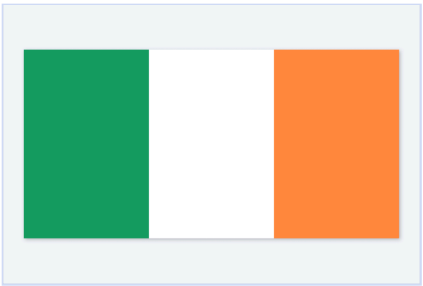
## Greece

EU Member State since 1981, Euro area member since 2001, Schengen area member since 2000 and more about Greece's participation in the EU.



## Hungary

EU Member State since 2004, Schengen area member since 2007 and more about Hungary's participation in the EU.



## Ireland

EU Member State since 1973, Euro area member since 1999 and more about Ireland's participation in the EU.

## Italy

EU Member State since 1958, Euro area member since 1999, Schengen area member since 1997 and more about Italy's participation in the EU.

## Latvia

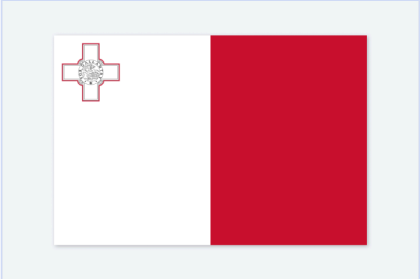
EU Member State since 2004, Euro area member since 2014, Schengen area member since 2007 and more about Latvia's participation in the EU.

## Lithuania

EU Member State since 2004, Euro area member since 2015, Schengen area member since 2007 and more about Lithuania's participation in the EU.

## Luxembourg

EU Member State since 1958, Euro area member since 1999, Schengen area member since 1995 and more about Luxembourg's participation in the EU.



## Malta

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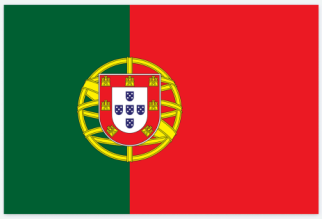
## Netherlands

EU Member State since 1958, Euro area member since 1999, Schengen area member since 1995 and more about Dutch participation in the EU.

Showing results 20 to 27

## Poland

EU Member State since 2004, Schengen area member since 2007 and more about Poland's participation in the EU.



## Portugal

EU Member State since 1986, Euro area member since 1999, Schengen area member since 1995 and more about Portugal's participation in the EU.

## Romania

EU Member State since 2007, Schengen area member since 2024 and more about Romania's participation in the EU.

## Slovakia

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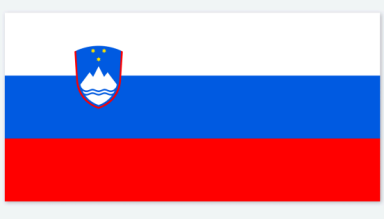

## Slovenia

EU Member State since 2004, Euro area and Schengen area member since 2007 and more about Slovenia's participation in the EU.

## Spain

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## Sweden

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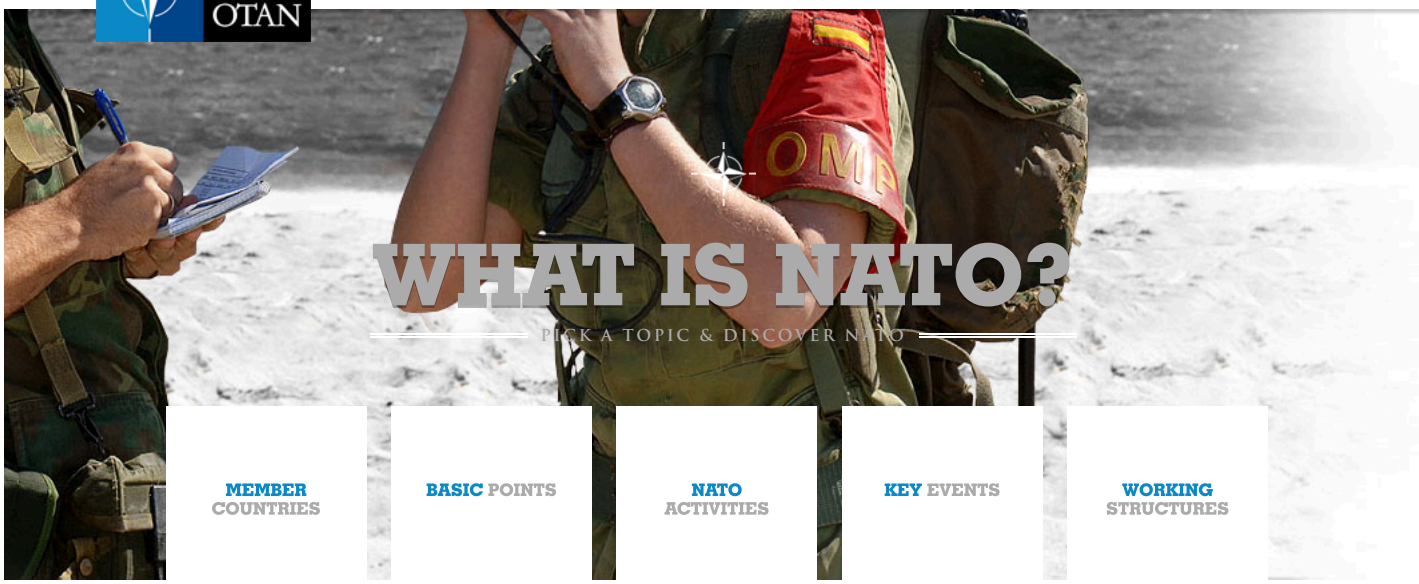


1

# MEMBER COUNTRIES

## NATO MEMBERS

*The most important players in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization are the member countries themselves.*

THERE ARE CURRENTLY

**32**

MEMBERS

Sort alphabetically or Sort by date

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ALBANIA (2009) | GREECE (1952) | POLAND (1999) |
| BELGIUM (1949) | HUNGARY (1999) | PORTUGAL (1949) |
| BULGARIA (2004) | ICELAND (1949) | ROMANIA (2004) |
| CANADA (1949) | ITALY (1949) | SLOVAKIA (2004) |
| CROATIA (2009) | LATVIA (2004) | SLOVENIA (2004) |
| CZECHIA (1999) | LITHUANIA (2004) | SPAIN (1982) |
| DENMARK (1949) | LUXEMBOURG (1949) | SWEDEN (2024) |
| ESTONIA (2004) | MONTENEGRO (2017) | TÜRKIYE (1952) |
| FINLAND (2023) | NETHERLANDS (1949) | UNITED KINGDOM (1949) |
| FRANCE (1949) | NORTH MACEDONIA (2020) | UNITED STATES (1949) |
| GERMANY (1955) | NORWAY (1949) | |

*NATO membership is open to "any other European state in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area."*

2

# BASIC POINTS

2.1 A POLITICAL AND MILITARY ALLIANCE
2.2 COLLECTIVE DEFENCE
2.3 THE TRANSATLANTIC LINK
2.4 THE 2022 STRATEGIC CONCEPT

2.1

## A POLITICAL AND MILITARY ALLIANCE

*Security in our daily lives guarantee the freedom an military means.*

*our well-being. NATO's purpose is to of its members through political and*

**POLITICAL** – *NATO promotes democratic values and enables members to consult and cooperate on defence and security-related issues to solve problems, build trust and, in the long run, prevent conflict.*

**MILITARY** – *NATO is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military power to undertake crisis-management operations. These are carried out under the collective defence clause of NATO's founding treaty – Article 5 of the Washington Treaty or under a United Nations mandate, alone or in cooperation with other countries and international organisations.*

*NATO is members collectiv*

*So far, A attacks i*

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# ACTIVITIES

3.1 DECISIONS AND CONSULTATIONS
3.2 OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS
3.3 PARTNERSHIPS
3.4 DEVELOPING THE MEANS TO RESPOND TO THREATS

3.1

## DECISIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

*Every day, member countries consult and take decisions on security issues at all levels and in a variety of fields.*

*A "NATO decision" is the expression of the collective will of all 32 member countries since all decisions are taken by consensus.*

*Hundreds of officials, as well as civilian and military experts, come to NATO Headquarters each day to exchange information, share ideas and help prepare decisions when needed, in cooperation with national delegations and the staff at NATO Headquarters.*

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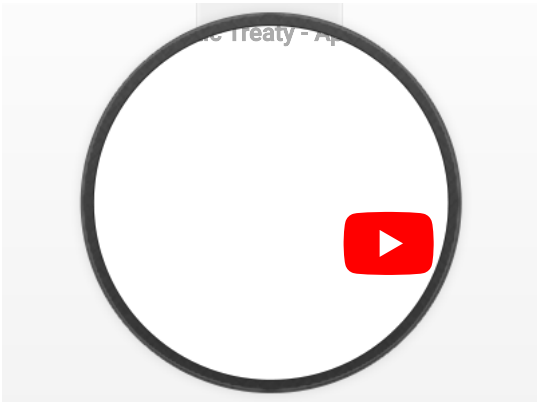
## KEY EVENTS

1949

1949 — Birth of NATO and the Cold War



*Signing of the Washington Treaty, 4 April*

2022

1989

2003 — NATO since 9/11

1991

2001

1995

GO TO NATO'S HISTORY MODULE